EXAMINATIONS PAST AND PRESENT - COMICAL FEATURES-ODD EXAMPLES OF IGNORANCE AND

A member of the old board of examiners, when promotions and appointments in the civil service were regulated by examinations, tolda STAR given below: reporter the other day an incident about Judge Folger in that connection. The gentleman quoted was chairman of a board which was holding a civil service examination in New federal service in that city. In these examinawhich was adhered to throughout. Judge Folger came in when the papers of the candipraise in regard to the exact fairness and the perfect system of the examination, but said be more practicable.

FUNNY CIVIL SERVICE REMINISCENCES. In view of ex-Secretary Windom's idea on civil service reform, which has done more to subject than anything else, there reminiscenses among officers of the Treasury department, concerning the times when the attempt was made to reform treasury patronage. There is a good deal of fun in these reminiscences. The form of the examinations of those days is still kept up, but it is only a form. An old gentleman who was prominently connected with the civil service reform examinations of a few years ago, now goes through the motions of examining candidates for Treasury appointments whose selection has been assured before they ever present themselves for examination. He has a small room in an out-of-theway part of the Treasury building, instead of the full swing of a suite of apartments the examining board possessed in its palmy day The desks in his room at which candidates are supposed to sit, bear the unmistakable signs of very infrequent occupation. In not more than one case out of twenty appointments made in the department is there an examination. The applicant always passes, and only goes through an alleged mill in order to prevent the death of all that is left of the civil-service reform scheme. But to the reminiscences that spring up among Treasury department officers. Some of the examination papers of the time when examiners really examined certainly were interesting reading. THE NERVOUS MAIDEN.

The most anique, perhaps, on record are those of a lady of about forty-five years. She handled all the papers in a quiet, deliberate way, and through with her task considerably in advance tion whatever. The examiners were therefore ment, which is as much somewhat surprised when they looked over the papers and found that all that the apparently calm lady had done was to write these words upon each paper: "Oh, dear! I am so nerviss I don't know what to do!'

A CASE OF FALSE SYNTAX. At one of the examinations the candidates for a salary from Uncle Sam corrected the sen-

A clerk who was up for promotion to \$1,400 a pray believe me ever your and its faithful seryear was given a problem in regard to a suppositious case of the settlement of the accounts of a paymaster entrusted with a certain amount of she had named. I kept the engagement to a not know anything about it. "This case hap-

THE YOUNG MAN WHO TACKLED THE INDETERMIN-ABLE FRACTION.

Candidates were required to write out in full them for solution. One of the problems upon

ODD CASES OF IGNORANCE.

Every candidate was asked to write out his or her clerical experience. In the majority of cases this question brought full and detailed accounts of religious belief and experience. There were found hundreds of candidates who

could not bound the state in which they lived nor tell its capital. In fact, it was an exceptional case where a person was found capable of accurately bounding any state. THE PROUD KENTUCKIAN.

A Kentuckian, in answer to the question who discovered America? proudly wrote "Daniel Boone." WHAT A CANDIDATE KNEW ABOUT AMERICAN HIS-

generals served in the Revolutionary war?" was | mental energy or sympathy with asked. After wrestling with it some time, one young man put them down "Cromwell and Layfayett."

"BOUNDING" THE UNITED STATES. The records of the department show that one answer to the question gave as the boundaries of the United States: "Grand Portage and Lake Michigan, New Foundland, Yucatan, Central America and the West Indies." The same man also confidently asserted that Sierra Leone was one of the mountain ranges of the United States. Another adept in geography said that Vermont | quire very particularly about our training to have sent more men to the penitentiary since and Arkansas were both Atlantic coast states. A candidate from New York admitted that he was ventured that Chesapeake bay and the Gulf of well in mind. She asked how our wealthy, as principal counsel of the Union Pacific Railswer to the question what the three co-ordinate branches of the government were, an answer from a candidate from cultured Boston was "the senatorial, political, congressional and legislative bodies." In American history Marylander said that the revolutionary war commenced in 1669. One examination paper dubbs the Attorney General as the "Adjitant General" and the President as the "exicitive branch" of the government. Ni- government and from organized societies, and agara was spelt by one man three different ways: "Niagora," "Nyagarer" and "Nighagaria," Nebraska was spelt "New Braska" and "Nebrasker" by a handsome lady from Ohio-state of the great. One candidate said that he had been to"Critinden's business college and kepted school besides," and further on said that "Wimmin first came to the cepulcer of crist." He also si elt God with a little g. Alabama was frequently spelt "Alabamer;" Louisiana, "Louiseania;" Connecticut, "Connecticutt;" Rhode Island, Road Island;" Maryland, "Maryaland," and Massachusetts, "Massatusetts. In arithmetic the largest display of ignorance was upon decimal fractions, of which the general run of candidates examined seemed to have no knowledge whatever. One of the worst mistakes ever made in arithmetical problems was out of the way only \$27,000,000, a sum suffi- by her genius in the organization and superincient to bankrupt the government in twenty- tendence of the nursing in the large military this sentence of seven words were in figures, he four hours. These are only specimens of hundreds of errors some less glaring than those mentioned, but the majority of them fully as bed, even if not worse.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR: If our brilliant Evening STAR could use its

influence to enlighten the morning just before day (the time proverbially the darkest), it would, indeed, be a double blessing. I do not which bears her name, she is still giving her atknow at what hour the lamps are extinguished, tention, being specially interested in the educabut some time before 4:30 a.m., just at the time the bakers, milkmen and provision dealers are on their way to supply the wants of the thrifty consekeeper. A number of mornings past the rain or fog have made it so dark a driver could scarce see his own horse, and certainly ran a to go into service for high rewards, still many great risk of running into the horse or wagon of those educated in this school go on nursing of another just turning the corners. If our the poor and doing good without regard to reof another just turning the corners. If our city cannot afford light all the time, it is less needed the first hour after they are lighted in the evening. Will not the editor speak a word in behalf of some sufferers and MANY OLD SUBSCRIBERS?

of those educated in this school go on nursing the poor and doing good without regard to remuneration. Her description of the services rendered by the nurses to the poor was about as follows: Wherever sickness was found in a house, or application made for a nurse in a part of the city within the district assigned to one or

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

Fourth Opening of the School. IDDRESS BY DR. TONER-THE MOVEMENT TO

Reference has been made in THE STAR to the address by Dr. Toner at the opening of the fourth course of instruction in the Washington Training School for Nurses, but it contains so much matter of interest that a full report is nurse from the house. The house was visited

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members and Professors of the Washington Training School for Nurses: We assemble to-night to open in a public manner the fourth regular course of instruction in the Washington Training School for York for appointments and promotions in the Nurses. The presence of this distinguished assembly is particularly gratifying to the society tions there was always a fixity of standard and the friends of the enterprise. Our work is each year becoming more and more appreciated by the public. The encouragement given to trained and competent nurses, and the demand dates were being examined. He spoke in terms of | for their services in the sick-room, is everywhere constantly increasing. Schools for training nurses are being established in nearly all our that he did not think that federal appointments | large cities, and the calling of the trained nurse should be regulated by the rule of three. He may now be considered one of the established spoke at some length on the subject; the gene- and honorable pursuits of life. This society is ral drift of his remarks was that civil service still laboring under an embarrassment in not examinations did not amount to much, particu- having a home of its own for the systematic inlarly in the way of reform, and that he thought | struction and training of its pupils; but by courother methods would in the end be found to age and perseverance we hope finally to obtain suitable quarters, and we think we see in the near future a prospect of our nurses having a suitable home in the projected National Garfield Memorial Hospital. During the past summer I had the opportunity of a conversation with a wishes for the success of the Washington attract public attention at this time to that lady of great practical experience in nursing, and one of the most noted and influential living been considerable talk and exchange of advocates of the utility of training schools for the education of nurses. I allude, as you will

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE. This event came about as follows: The evening before I left for Europe the graduates who received certificates at the close of our last year's instruction called to pay their respects and wish me a pleasant journey, and left with me a card bearing their photographs. I at once concluded to put the photograph in my trunk, the physicians whose patients they nurse. This and if opportunity offered while in England to is very gratifying to the school. From the ingive it to Miss Nightingale. I also took with saucer of the china decorated for the loan exhibition held last spring in the interest of the Washington Training School for Nurses. It London I visited St. Thomas' Hospital. That institution has a corps of trained nurses, presided over by Mrs. Wardroper, a lady of much executive ability, and who is an efficient coworker with Miss Nightingale. This old and

very extensive hospital is a handsome stone of the Thames, immediately across the stream | trained and devote themselves with fidelity to from Parliament House. The institution is their duties can acquire competence and repurichly endowed, and is kept in admirable con- tation. As means are needed to carry on the dition in all its appointments. Its administra- work of the society, and as the annual subscription and nursing are unexceptionable. From | tion is but one dollar, we urge all who can to be-Mrs. Wardroper, who accompanied me through come contributing members. No one will part of the building, I obtained the address of miss the sum, and it will greatly help us. Our Miss Nightingale, and the following day I took | worthy treasurer, A. S. Solomons is ready to rewhile spending considerable time over each, got to her residence the photographs and china I ceive donations for the school in large or small that these trifles would lead to an interview. of any of the others undergoing the inquisition. However, the next morning I received from Miss She showed no signs of excitement or perturba- Nightingale a very polite note of acknowledg-

> A COMPLIMENT TO THIS SOCIETY as it is to myself, a fact that induces me to read. It is in the following language: Dr. Toner, 5 Henrietta street, Cavendish Square,

"My Dear Sir: I thank you a thousand times were directed to correct the false syntax in the books, the photographs of the nurses, and the or your great kindness in bringing me your following sentence: "And Rebecca took goodly china manufactured for your nurses' training raiment and put them on Jacob." One aspirant | school, all things which I shall value so much. I cannot bear that you should leave England tence by making it read: "And Rebecca took so interesting to us both; but I am so overwithout my seeing you personally on a subject sufficient raiment and put them on Jacob." He | worked (and always a prisoner from illness) that evidently labored under the impression that I can only say: Could you give me a few min-Jacob had come to see his girl without putting utes on Monday at half-past twelve or on Tuesday at half-past twelve or five? Please let me THE CLERK WHO WAS NOT THERE AT THE TIME. have a word in reply, and for the nursing cause

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE." I replied promptly to her note that I would do myself the honor of calling at the earliest hour ! money. The solution to the problem, as put | minute; and upon my card being sent to Miss down in black and white, was that the clerk did | Nightingale I was immediately conducted to her room on the second floor. Here I round Miss pened." he said, "before I came into the depart- | Nightingale reclining upon a lounge, by the side of which stood a small table, with writing material upon it; also the photographs of the nurses and the pamphlets and china I had sent her. She held my card in her hand, and, addressing me by name as I approached and withthe arithmetical problems which were given out rising, extended her hand and bade me welcome. Florence Nightingale, though of English one examination—the first on the list—had for parentage, was born in Florence, Italy, in 1820. its answer an indeterminable fraction. One looked not a day older than forty-six. Miss young man struck that problem and went for it. Nightingale's features are regular, her face is He was a careful young man and wanted to smooth and unwrinkled, she has an English comcarry out his instructions in full. He was an plexion, large brown eyes, and a well nourished hour later than the other candidates in handing | body, which would weigh 165 pounds, so that she in his papers. He had touched nothing but that is not now the slight, fragile person which the problem. He had staid by it all day. He had engraved portraits, taken just after the Crimean covered sheets upon sheets of paper in the vain endeavor to seize upon that indeterminable and has been, for years, a sufferer, and confined most of the time to her room. Had she the health to appear in public and to fill the place in society and the social world which her talents of your city, Mr. Joseph Williams. and worth entitle her to occupy, she would be the most popular lady in England. And, notwithstanding this enforced retirement, I believe | visible here. Of these I have met Col. Ward H. ing the Queen) the most universally beloved of | District; Major J. V. W. Vandenburg, Mr. Will any woman in Great Britain. In personal ap- Davis, Harry McCurdy, Mr. Will McBlair, T. and the appointment of a resident student. pearance Miss Nightingale very much resembles a lady of high culture and literary ability in this is superintending the rehearsals of an amateur her many charities, and as a contributing mem-

ber of this society. of the time when I entered the room and again | tician, is also here engaged in street work for several times during my stay, yet she did not at | any time move her lower limbs, which rested on Bentley, formerly Commissioner of Pensions, The question "What two distinguished Polish but, whatever it is, it in no way affects her office, has brought hither his wife and boy, and

THE WORK OF EDUCATING NURSES.

She has enlarged, clear, and distinct views on glass of milk, of which she took a couple of school in the city of Washington. She had read the pamphlet of the announcement of our school and had the names of a number of the incorpordisposed toward the school, and recommended strongly that we should not rest until we obtained a home for the nurses, and that we should be particular to admit to the honors of the school only those whose character, physical strength and zeal in the cause give promise of efficient services. She was also particular to inquire what aid we received from the we had a fixed fund. She was quite surprised that sufficient voluntary contributions could be obtained to support the school, and that we should have been so successful without the aid of endowments and government appro- & Rio Grande railroad stretching away into priations, so essential to enterprises of this the fastnesses of the Rocky mountains, and kind in Great Britain. She listened with much | bringing to its very doors the gold and silver interest to an account of our late loan exhibi- there being largely mined, Denver must grow tion, and was particularly pleased with the fact that our leading citizens were interested in its success. Florence Nightingale began her lifework by acquiring a knowledge of systematic nursing in 1849 at Kaeserworth, an institution on the Rhine for practical instruction in the art of hospital nursing. During the Crimean war, in 1854-'55, she entered with zeal upon the duties of her high vocation and

GAINED A WORLD-WIDE FAME hospitals. She retired from this field of work with broken-down health, from which she has never fully recovered. On her return to England she received a letter of thanks from the Lights Wanted in the Dark Mornings. Queen, accompanied by a suberb jewel. A fund of \$50,000 was raised by subscription, and a Florence Nightingale Training School for Nurses established. A penny subscription was raised by the British soldiers to erect to her a monument, which she declined. To this school. tion of nurses for the poor. Many, if not all the pupils, are from among the gentle women of England and ladies of good social position. Although she is aware that the wealthy will induce some of those educated to nurse the poor

more of the nurses, a visit is made by one of them and her services tendered to place the room in order and impart instructions to the family or attendants how to keep it so, and how to administer medicine and to wait on the patient. This assistance of the nurse was sometimes, though not often, declined. I inferred that it was commonly found that besides scrubbing and scowering sheets and pillow-cases, and ometimes a pillow, a couple of napkins, a drinking-cup, a spoon, and a candle, or some such things were needed and supplied by the by the nurse twice a day and the

BEST PRACTICAL REGULATIONS MAINTAINED

hospital, or death rendered their duties no onger necessary. Usually about the third day. the nurses found the room put in pretty good confident hope of recovery established in both the patient and their friends. While Miss Nightingale is devoting her energies to educating nurses for the poor, which she recognizes as but one field for this useful labor, she is delighted to hear of the multiplication and prosperity of schools for the training of nurses both in Great Britain and other parts of the world. Nothing could be more earnest than her good School. I beg your indulgence for this very imperfect sketch of a most agreeable interview with one of the noblest of characters. Miss Nightingale lives and labors apparently entirely unconscious of the undying fame she has won, and the noble example of the possibility and usefulness in this line of work she has so gloriously given to her sex. And now, what can and ought I to say about our own school and its prospects? Those who have graduated, we are glad to be able to say, are finding in our midst constant and remunerative employment, and the society is in receipt of good reports from those who employ them and from quiries made for them we are confident that me for the same purpose a plate and cup and twenty or thirty trained nurses would find employment in this city. As yet it is too early to say what is to be the character of the class this year. We trust that the avocation of the nurse happened that a few days after my arrival in in this country is beginning to attract to it ladies of education, as well as of social position, as it has done in England. The lectures are free to those approved and registered as having the proper qualifications, and who conform to the regulations of the school. We are quite confident that those who are suited physically, menilding near the center of the city, on the bank | tally, and morally to the work, and are properly amounts from any source. In regard to raising funds I desire to announce that it is the purpose of the friends of the school to give a promenade concert some time about the holidays. We

> Letter from Denver. LIVE WESTERN CITY-ITS PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENTS - WASHINGTONIANS RESIDENT HOUSE OF REFUGE FOR COLORED BOYS THERE-RAILROAD OPERATIONS.

wish to keep our old friends and add many new

onesto our ranks, and make the school a success,

and the trained nurse ablessing to all who re-

quire their service.

Correspondence of THE EVENING STAR. DENVER, October 28, 1881. Said a former well known Washingtonian, whom I met on the street here vesterday, There is no doubt about it, next to Washington, Denver is the best city in this country.' broad, well-graded streets, bracing atmosphere and delightful climate, one can easily put up with the exchange. There is a great deal of wealth here, a great deal of energy, a great deal of thrift, and a large hearted, generous people. Just now the residents here are a little worked up, in view of a capital moving scheme. agitated by some of the ambitious towns of the state, which are desirous of the honor of having of others, obliged to go out to service and unathe seat of government within their limits. The matter is to be voted upon at the coming election, and a good deal of buncombe is being in-

dulged in by second-rate towns as to their rights and advantages. The Denver people have all their arrangements made, and confidently expect the requisite majority to hold the capital here. The people here have advanced ideas in city improvements. A contract for lighting the streets by the electric light is now in successful course. The steam heating company are furnishing to the citizens heat at a certain stated sum per week-the conveying pipes radiating The work of sewering the city is progressing rapidly and successfully, the contractor for the work being the former well-known sewer builder

There are numerous Washingtonians here, and

in other parts of the state who are frequently Florence Nightingale is to-day (perhaps except- | Lamon, formerly United States marshal of the Harry Donehue, who is doing finely in business, city, and who is well and favorably known for theatrical company, and who has on the tapis the formation of a social club similar to the should be restored. In 1879 the total whilom famous Garrick Club of Washington. Though Miss Nightingale sat upright much | Henry Himber, once a loud-mouthed ward poli-Mr. Williams. . The advent of Hon. John A. the lounge and were covered with a shawl. I was hailed with pleasure by those who knew do not know the character of her invalidness, him. Mr. Bentley has taken a handsome law is "here to stay." I met, a day or two ago, Mr. G. Q. Richmond, formerly a young lawyer in Ben Lovejoy's office. He has been pecuniarily successful, and now enjoys the honor of being the subject of nursing and the training of nurses, | mayor of Pueblo, next to the largest city of the and expresses them forcibly and fluently. Dur- state. Many of the readers of THE STAR will ing my visit a servant woman brought her a remember John W. Jenkins, formerly of Wash- timates for fiscal year ending June 30, 1883, are ington, whom Gen. Grant appointed secretary swallows. After a few brief remarks relative to | Col. Jenkins has had the usual business fluctuaof the territory in the early days of Colorado. my visit to England and the importance and sig- tions of a western man, but has now settled nificance of the International Medical Congress | squarely down to hard work, and as the prose- | the hospital have been promptly met, though at then in session in London, she proceeded to in- cuting attorney of the Leadville district claims times it has been over-crowded. has held office-about nine months-than was done before in five years. Ex-M. C. Lyman educated, and philanthropic citizens were road Company. Senator Teller is also one of the Union Pacific counsel.

Denver is beginning to take upon itself airs as a railroad center. Three trains daily arrive from and depart for the east and west. Another road, the Denver and New Orleans, is dangerous and not unfrequently fatal. One can means sufficient to warrant its successful completion. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. a formidable opponent of the Union Pacific, is expected to arrive here within two months, the city council having already passed the ordinance giving the right of way. With these incoming roads, and the steel rails of the Denver and flourish, and in ten years will vie with the great cities of the east in culture, wealth and influence.

No Rest for the Plodding Ploughman.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR: If "Constant Reader," Room 43, War department, will overhaul his arithmetic, he will find a the laws of hygiene, and the first thing they know certain rule as to progression of figures that they are down with pneumonia. One can go will demonstrate his researches still undone. If would find that he has not by any means completed his task. What has become of all the plods"? Here are some omitted:

Plods his weary way the homeward plowman. Plods his way weary the homeward plowman. Plods the homeward plowman his weary way. Plods the homeward plowman weary his way. Plods the homeward plowman his way weary. &c., &c., &c. Do not, O. STAR! make the weary compositor

set it all up again; but let "Room 43" take the

ROOM 21. WAR DEP'T.

problem home and finish the job this time.

Perusing your valuable paper of 29th ult. find one more way of reading The weary ploughman plods his homeward way,

THE WASHINGTON ASYLUM.

Annual Report of the Intendant. NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED-SHORT APPROPRIATIONS-A HOUSE OF REFORMATION FOR COLORED BOYS NEEDED-CARE OF THE

"MILDLY INSANE," ETC.

Mr. George A. Caswell, commissioner and intendant of the Washington Asylum, has submitted his annual report to the District Commissioners, in which he states that while there has been some improvement, both sanitary and in the way of economy, in the general condition in the sick room, the most exact compliance of the hospital, he is unable to make a report as with the doctor's directions for the administra- favorable as that of last year, owing to the fact tion of medicine and diet observed, and the that the appropriation was largely reduced patient's condition in every respect rendered as while there was a decided increase in the numcomfortable as possible. This service was ber of inmates and the cost of material. As a nearly always found to be agreeable to the result it was necessary to withdraw the prison patient and their friends, as well as the physi- gang from street work, there being no money cian in attendance. This service of the nurse for the purchase of tools and extra clothing

was continued until either recovery, removal to needed for that service. For the same reason it has not been possible to make either repairs or improvements to the premises. order before their arrival, and courage and a The appropriation for the present year is but little larger, and the cost of material has still further increased, again making it impossible to utilize prison labor on outside work; besides the necessity for certain changes too long neglected, to make the pauper class reasonably comfortable without regard to the money at command, renders the situation even more embarrassing than last year. The condition of the shanties occupied by

COLORED MALE PAUPERS. has been for a long time a disgrace to civilization. They have now become absolutely untenantable. Though the necessity for additional money to furnish comfortable quarters was repeatedly urged on the attention of the gentlemen having charge of the appropriation bill in the House of Representatives, he could not be persuaded either to visit the asylum to see for imself nor grant the needed means. He (the intendant) has been obliged to fit up at considerable expense, one of the old army magazine buildings in which to quarter these paupers. In times past but little attention was given to the condition of our unfortunate classes, but public sentiment now demands that they shall be reasonably and comfortably cared for. When he first assumed control of the asylum everything seemed going rapidly into decay. While much has been done more still remains to be

NEEDS OF THE ASYLUM. So far as cleanliness both of buildings and inmates is concerned, the intendant states he is in a condition to challenge comparison with any similar institution in the United States; yet for want of means fences have decayed beyond repair; blinds have fallen from their hinges, and roofs are in a leaky condition. New wards fered with, while at the same time the popular have become absolutely necessary. Under this condition he had made a decided increase in the provide an affectual remedy for the evil. In estimates for the coming fiscal year. An addi- the face of facts like these why is it that these tional overseer is needed and an increase of their | abominable nuisances are not only allowed to recommendation, that the present law be so | year indefinitely without any practical steps amended as to enable the judge of the Police | being taken to abate and eradicate them? Why Court to sentence constant offenders to long is it that the honorable Commissioners of the terms of service. It is absurd to hope to reform or benefit a person who has fallen so low as to removal in accordance with the suggestions become a regular inmate of the workhouse, while the longest term of imprisonment is ninety days. With longer terms and a proper system of rebate of time for industry and good behavior. some hope may be expected towards reforma-

He recommends that a house of refuge or reformation be established in connection with the asylum for colored boys who

are being sent to the workhouse for petty of fences; whose enforced association with the lowest criminals soon make them criminals. With This beautiful little city has about it some of the | small outlay the remaining army and navy magmany good points of Washington, and with its azine buildings might be utilized for such purpose. The law should be so amended as to enable the Police Court judge to sentence these boys to the house or refuge until 18 years of age, with a reserved power to the Commissioners to release at discretion. Many of these boys are without friends or homes, and they are sent down there not because they are bad, but because the world affords them no other place, and at the end of their terms they frequently imporble to properly care for them, have also begged to be kept there. Under the present arrangement he is obliged either to turn them upon the streets, knowing that they will immediately

CARE OF THE "MILDLY INSANE." The question of the care of the "mildly insane" has received considerable attention, and they have been sent to this institution, but in the most enlightened communities such disposition is not tolerated. If they are to be sent there, it will be necessary to provide for a suitunder ground, the same as gas and water pipes. able building and for proper attendants. He calls the attention of the Commissioners to the protest of the visiting physician against "the sending of persons suspected of insanity, or actually insane, to the almshouse hospital for safe keep-

trained as ignorant paupers.

MISCELLANEOUS MENTION. Some years ago he had recommended the abolition or one of the offices of resident physician The large increase of work in the medical branch renders it necessary that the prescriptions were 8,700, while last year they were 15.122. The improvements made to some of the dining-rooms, &c., are described. Fifteen hundred and forty-seven days work of prisoners, one hundred days work of overseers and lifty days of horse and cart labor were furnished the engineer department for the improvement of H street northeast; during last winter 770 barrels of dry fertilizers were made from nightsoil and garbage, ten thousand heads of cabbages were raised and large quantities of other vegetables, and fruits were raised and consumed on the place: five thousand seven hundred and four pounds of prime pork was killed. The es-\$55,000. The report of Dr. Dyer, visiting physician, is appended, showing the number of deaths to have been 90 during the past year, number of

Laws of Hygiene in Government Offices. To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR:

Permit me to suggest to those who have charge of different divisions in government buildings, school rooms and other places, that while ventilation is indispensable to health and comfort, sitting in a current of air or draft is stretching out towards the Crescent City, with safely sit in a cool room where plenty of air is circulating, and perhaps feel no ill effects, but to sit between a door and window with both open will soon give any one but a cast-iron mortal a fearful cold. In many offices the laws of the cemetery the crowd, scattered over the broad Johnson family was already so numerous hygiene are entirely overlooked. Clerks will sit for hours perfectly still, writing or figuring, perhaps directly in front of a window and a door open behind them, with a current of air which raises the papers on their desks. When they his pockets, saw that inquisitive women did not | wished me to allow him to select a name for attempt to straighten up they will find their necks stiff, their shoulders lame, sneezing will ensue, and in many cases a dangerous sore throat and pneumonia perhaps. If any one intimates there is danger in such exposure, they will not unfrequently get this answer: "I'm not a baby; I like plenty of fresh air; I never take cold; its just exactly as one accustoms himself. Those who are afraid of tresh air are always getting cold." ting cold." Such persons are totally ignorant of knoll the crowd was thickest, for from that point into many of our offices and hear nothing but coughing, sneezing and hawking, and will perceive at the same time a continual draft, and those in the line of it half sick without scarcely knowing why. Thirty clerks may occupy a large room, and with the windows down from the top and raised from the pottom with the patent adfustment for ventilation, the air is constantly changing, and not eften impure. No one is exposed. Let the doors, however, be opened into halls where outer doors, nowever, be opened into halls where outer doors are again opening, and those who sit in the draft thus occasioned will not escape long without an "awful cold." Even in very warm weather currents of air should be avoided, and certainly now in this changeable weather some precaution is necessary. Hundreds of victims die yearly from just such causes as I have named. You hear it said, "Oh, he took a hard cold at the office; had neumonia, and never got over it; had quick consumption, !

> Must one sit in a current of air knowing his health is endangered, or run the risk of being called fussy and afraid of fresh air if he asks for a door to be closed? One's health first, afterwards the margin for those to speculate on who tempt death by needless exposure.

Telegraph Poles and Wooden Tree Boxes Viewed as Nuisances.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR: The thanks of this community are due you for the persistency and force with which you have for some time past advocated the removal of the unsightly telegraph poles which encumber our beautiful streets in almost countless numbers.

I congratulate you, Mr. Editor, on the successful result of your labors in this direction, for it is now only a question of time, and comparatively of very short time, when all telegraphic vires within city limits will be consigned beneath the surface of the earth, where they should have been originally placed. Allow me to invite your attention to another eyesore, or rather multitude of eyesores, disfiguring the streets in every direction, hoping for your coperation in endeavoring to abate such an bominable nuisance.

I refer to the wooden tree boxes, dilapidated

and decayed: once whitewashed, but now faded and dirty, wrecked and torn-many of then ornamented with strips of various colored wood. together with an abundance of old rusty straps of iron, leather, tin or cotton cloth-which abound as far as the eye can reach, from almost every point of observation one can take. The parking commission in its report for 1879 states the number of trees under its care at 30,000, all of them, it is presumed, furnished with wood boxes. The entire cost of these is not stated, but in their report of October, 1880, they state that for 3,500 new boxes, setting the same and repairing old ones, including whitewashing, there had been expended during the then past fiscal year \$7,522.26. It may be safely assumed that the average cost of the boxes is about \$1.25 each, which for the 60,000 trees aggregates \$75,000 so far under this head. And still the work goes on without any practical steps being taken to curtail this expenditure at any point. This might very readily be done by removing the boxes from the more advanced trees after they have acquired a size of about four inches diameter at a distance of four feet from the ground, because any tree of that size is capable ordinarily of sustaining itself without adventitious support. That an improved condition of the trees would result as a consequence of such action there can be no doubt. On this subject the same parking commission in their annual report of November 11th, 1878, mid:needed, the boxes are decidedly injurious, as they prevent the trees from swaying to and fro with the wind, thus rendering them unable to recover the perpendicular position which their elasticity enables them to do, unless counteracted by the rigidity of the box. It is observed that those trees without boxes are not so liable to injury as those provided with them." And again they say "perhaps twothirds of all the trees in the city would be improved by the removal of the boxes." The only objection they suppose to exist to the proposed removal is that in a few instances horses may injure the trees by gnawing the bark. I say few because, proportionately, not more than one in a thousand is likely to be so interpride and affection for the trees would soon District do not give orders for their immediate contained in the reports above quoted? Such action on their part will vastly improve the appearance of the city, and, at the same time, economize a heavy item of superfluous expenditure. POTOMAC.

The Sale of Stamps.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR: I saw by Thursday's papers that the petition of the business men, on Pennsylvania avenue, between 9th and 10th streets, to the Postmaster General, asking the appointment of some one authorized to sell postal cards, stamps, &c., was respectfully declined by the acting Postmaster General (Gen. Hazen) on the ground of economy. Now it seems to me that this is car- tion: rying the economy business a little too far. Why not dismiss all the letter-carriers and remove all the letter-boxes and require every one to go to the Post Office to receive or post their letters? This would save a lot of money. Why not send the mails by slow instead of fast trains? This would also save money. Why not even go further and charge three cents for postal cards? They cost quite as much to carry as letters do. This would make or tune to be allowed to remain there. The parents save a large amount for the Post Office, and according to the brilliant reasoning of Gen. Hazen would be in the line of economy. Will he dare recommend these measures to Congress? Yet there is just the same argument in favor of any one of the above propositions as return, or transfer them to the alms house to be there is against the appointment of stamp agents. The Post Office is for the benefit of the people, and if Gen. Hazen would spend a few nue he would find out how many people would be benefitted if there were other places besides the Post Office where they could buy stamps and postal cards. Section 3919. U.S. Revised Statutes, authorizes the appointment of such agents, and if the Hon. Postmaster General will carry out that law he will benefit more people than he seems to have an idea of. Now. Mr. Editor, will you let us hear from you.

The New Minister.

The Hon. Lionel Sackville-West comes of a very ancient family. It was founded in thereign of Edward II. of England by Sir Thomas West, who was in high favor with that monarch, and has furnished several distinguished soldiers and statesmen to the nation. The present minister, who is the fifth son of the fifth Earl Delaware. was born July 19, 1827. He entered the public service in 1845 with the Earl of Aberdeen, when that statesman was foreign secretary. He was in the foreign office in 1847, when he was appointed attache to the British legation at Lisbon. from which he was transferred, in 1849, to Naples. He was attache at Stuttgard in 1852 at Berlin in 1853, and secretary of legation at Turin in 1858, where he was also charge d'affaires on several occasions between 1859 and 1863. In 1864 he was sent to Madrid as secretary of legation, where he was charge twice between that time and 1867. In the latter year he was promoted to the secretaryship of the embassy at Berlin, and transferred to Paris in 1868, where he was minister plenipotentiary a portion of the year during the absence of the ambassador, and again in 1869, 1871 and 1872. He was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic in 1872, and to Spain on the 11th of January, 1878, where he still remained at the date of publication of the Almanach de Gotha for 1881. It will be seen that Mr. West has gone up through all grades of diplomatic service to his present position of envoy extraordinary to the United States according to the excellent rule of civil service promotion upon experience and merit that prevails in Great Britain.

itors.

Garfield's Grave-A Steady Tide of Vis-A Cleveland exchange says: There was a constant stream of pilgrims to the Garfield shrine vesterday. The avenue was crowded with carriages, street cars were packed to suffocation. ogled the pretty girls from the corners of his imaginative cuts of the funeral car and the catafalque. The sales, however, did not seem to be remunerative. On Garfield. can be obtained a fine view of the distant city and lake. The tread of thousands of pilgrims has worn the grass till the spot is bare. Below. the funeral car, with a slight covering of canvas rests and rots on the bare ground. The plumes have been removed, and lie on the platform. where the wind and rain can the sooner destroy them. Some of the regulars complain bitterly of their treatment, and insist that barracks should be built for their accommodation if they are to remain all winter. Vandals were to be seen on all sides, and trees, shrubs and flowers suffered from their depredations. In the rear of the chapel several little mounds have been trodden down almost to a level by the feet of vandal sight-seers, who "cut across lots" in their haste Outside the cemetery and just below, a convenient hotel decorated with the mockeries of woe did a flourishing business, the proprietor taking advantage of the truism that there is no great loss without some small gain. He was wealthy but penurious, and this is

what he said to the suitor for his daughter's hand: "Yes, you can have her. But you must elope with her. I can't afford the expense of a swell wedding, and the romance of the elopement will make up for the lack of show, and we'll save \$500 on expenses. Go it!"—Boston Foot.

The Building Boom. Messrs. Dearing & Johnson, contractors and builders, have completed a fine residence for Mr. Giles Biague, on K, between 15th and 16th streets northwest. The size is 25 by 70 feet, three stories and basement, pressed brick front, with moulded brick cornices. A full bay window runs up the entire front. The internal arrangements are most complete, having reference to both comfort and elegance. The internal finish is in the different woods. The parlors are finished in mahogany, wood mantles, elaborately carved and ornamental tiling about the fire places. One parlor is in walnut, the dining room in ash, the hallway and stair cases in cherry. The doors are all made to suit the inside wood finish. Mr. Wm. M. Poindexter is the architect. The cost is about \$20,000.

Four fine three-story dwellings are being erected on Virginia avenue, between 9th and 10th streets southwest. These have pressed brick fronts with tower windows trimmed with Ohio stone, and the bricks laid in panels with brick cornice. The fronts are highly ornamental. They have each eleven rooms with bath-rooms on each floor, latrobes and range with hot and cold water and every modern convenience. They are owned by James Fraser and Mr. William Price, the latter being the architect and builder.

Mr. Edward Knebel has taken out a building permit for the erection of a fine dwelling house, to be located on C street, between 1st and 2d streets northeast. The main building is to be 19 feet front two-story and basement back building 14x18, pressed and moulded brick front, mouided brick and stone cornice, flat roof, bay window running up the whole height. All the inside finish is to be of the best quality and finished in the various natural woods. J. Germuiller is the architect and superintendent. August Getz is the contractor and builder. Cost, \$6,500.

Murderous Ducking Guns. To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR: Cannot the attention of the authorities, having such matters in charge, be called to the fact that, gun because they are too lazy to do anything else) are getting to work with their large immovable duck guns? It is a fact, oftentimes noticed, that by firing these large guns several times at flocks of ducks, it is possible to exterminate the whole flock. In the 12th section of the District Game Law we find the following: "Be it enacted, that no person shall, at any time, kill or shoot at any wild ducks, wild goose, or wild brandt, with any other gun than such as are habitually raised at "When trees attain a size that supports are not arm's length and fired from the shoulder, under a penalty of \$5 for each and every wild fowl killed, and under the further penalty of \$25 for firing such gun at any wild fowl as aforesaid or having said gun in possession." (The above game laws were published in your paper in 1878.) Believing that this note will be seconded by some other persons interested in the preservation of

I remain, very respectfully, "HOPEFUL"

The Significance of a Well-known Family Name.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAB: In a late article in your paper on the derivation of proper names, it is stated that Jones is derived from the Hebrew and signifies gracious. This is which is the oldest language in existence-(Adam and Eve spoke Weich in the garden of Eden)-and signifies a priest or the priesthood. The word is properly John or Johns, and has been corrupted name is John—the prophet of the highest"—that is, he was to be a priest. In ancient Wales the and am flattered at being able to contribute to priesthood inhered in the family of Johns, and many an olden legend and tradition still survives to illustrate the historic peculiarity and exclusive priestly nobility of the family. One of the chief characteristics of the name, after their great piety. was their extreme jocularity and love of fun. They were jokers from time immemorial. A granite monument, an immense boulder, erected over nine hundred years ago, to commemorate the tragic death of one of these priests through his inveterate tendency for practical joking, still exists, and the tradition concerning it is as distinct in all the surrounding country as the unwritten history of the surrender at Yorktown, or the great Chicago | sacred song, and, as if to hint that no sordid ire. This monument bears the indented semblance of an immense boar's head, with the following inscription, which when translated by the piain country people of the region round about, signifies "O, horrible, horrible deed, to kill a man for a pig's heed." A monument of a later date, erected to a member of the family in 1635, may still be seen in the old Hingham burying ground, near Boston, which bears the following inscrip-

"Here lies Tom Jones; what do you think! Can't you offer an old fellow something to drink? What! drink to a dead man? Yes, and I'll tell you why: When he was alive he was always dry.

But I spare your readers any further infliction. Outsiders and strangers can investigate for themselves. The genuine and appreciative members of this historic and priestly family ought already to be well informed upon the subject. ONE OF THE HEIRS TO THE NAME.

The Boy Preacher.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR. When I read Prof. Swing, of Chicago, on the boy preacher," I wondered of what is he professor, can it be of theology, and knoweth not the scriptures, how that He who spake as never man spake, saith,-verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God days in any of the prominent stores on the Ave- as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. As we receive so we preach; so preacheth the boy preacher. Am glad whenever The STAR reports concerning the whereabouts, and the work, of the young Evangelist. A regular reader of THE STAR, and a friend of all who preach the glorious go spel of the Son of God.

"Mark Twain's" New Hotel. The following "items" in relation to Mr. Twain's

new investment are published: RULES AND REGULATIONS OF MY "HASHERY." 1. This house will be strictly intemperate, and

2. None but the brave deserve a bill of fare. 3. Persons owing bills for board will be bored 4. Boarders who do not wish to pay in advance are requested to advance and pay.

5. Boarders are respectfully requested to wa until the cook cooks the meals. 6. Sheets will be nightly changed once in ever six months, or more if unnecessary. 7. All regular boarders are earnestly requested

to pull off all their boots regularly, if they can

conveniently do so, before retiring for the 8. Beds, with or without bugs or fleas, if pre-9. All moneys or other valuables are to be left in charge of the proprietor, without cost. This

he insists upon, as he will be held responsible for no losses on any account. 10. Inside and outside matter will never be furnished newspaper men, under any consideration-excepting reporters-who will be always

11. Single men, with their families, will never be "taken in." 12. Night-Mares-Single fare, \$1 an hour. 13. Stone vaults for snoring boarders.

How Frederick Douglass Got His

14. Children without families preferred.

recapture in that city, a comparatively unimportant question arose as to the name by which I should be known thereafter in my new relation as a free man. The name given me by my dear mother was no less pretentious and long than Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. 1 had, however, while living in Maryland, dispensed with the Augustus Washington, and re- are hundreds of Christian men, who delight in tained only Frederick Bailey. Between Balti- the worship of God, who spend from six to more and New Bedford, the better to conceal myself from the slave-hunters, I had parted with Bailey and called myself Johnson: and amateur pedestrians lined the sidewalks. In but in New Bedford I found that the grounds, was not so apparent. In front of the as to cause some confusion in disvault a spruce soldier trod his constant beat and | tinguishing them, hence a change in this name seemed desirable. Nathan Johnson, mine host, eves, while a stalwart soldier, with his hands in placed great emphasis upon this necessity, and linger too long by the vault door to gaze upon | me. I consented, and he called me by my presthe new bronze casket, almost covered with ent name—the one by which I have been known floral tributes. On either side, and along the route to the Garfield knoll, newsboys were hawking copies of weeks-old newspapers filled with of the Lake," and so pleased was he with its horrible caricatures of the Garfield family, and great character that he wished me to bear his name. Since reading that charming poem my-self I have often thought that, considering the noble hospitality and manly character of Nathan Johnson—black man though he was—he, far more than I. illustrated the virtues of the

> The Century Magazine. The Lights O' London. The way was long and dreary,
> But gallantly they strode,
> A country lad and lassie,
> Along the heavy road.
> The night was dark and stormy, But blithe of heart were they, For shining in the distance The Lights of London lay!

Douglas of Scotland. Sure am I that if any

slave-catcher had entered his domicile with a

view to my recapture, Johnson would have shown himself like him of the "stalwart hand."—

O gleaming lamps of London, that gem the city's crown, What fortunes lie within you, O Lights of Londo Town!

With faces worn and weary, That fold of sorrow's load, One day a man and woman Crept down a country road.
They sought their native village,
Heart-broken from the fray;
Yet shining still behind them
The Lights of London lay!

amps of London, if t are your heart could

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

PUNCHED COIN IN THE CONTRIBUTION BOX-MILITARY PARADES ON SUNDAY - "GOSPEL CARS"-PLAYING SINGING-MASTER IN CHURCH SERVICES, ETC., ETC.

- Father Hyacinthe has decided to postpone his visit to America until next February. - Three essentials of the church are the

divinity of the Saviour, the sanctity of the Word, and charity in life.—Swedenborg. - To the question, "Where did the revival begin?" a religious writer answers: "It began where a revival always begins, in the heart of one person.'

- Mr. Ingersoll, according to The Christian Union, knows no more about the Christian religion than a boy would know of a chestnut from picking his fingers with the burr.

- St. Albans, the first and most prominent of the Ritualistic churches of New York city, has proved to be a failure. The building has been sold to the Church of the Epiphany, an extremely Low church. - Rev. Father Conway, who has long been

pastor of the Church of St. Patrick, Chicago, has

been appointed to the vicar generalship of the by 36 feet deep, three stories and basement and diocese, an appointment which carries with it the rectorship of the cathedral. - The Salvation army recently held its anniversary at Bristol, England. It was stated at a meeting in the evening that during the past twelve months the stations of the army had

increased from 180 to 253, and the officers from - The funeral of Rev. Edwin A. Dalrymple, a well-known Episcopal clergyman of Baltimore, took place in that city on Wednesday, and was as the cold season approaches, the gunners (who attended by nearly all the Episcopal clergy of that city, and by several from Maryland and the

District of Columbia. - The Congregationalists advises people to give very little heed to floating rumors as to what the Congregational creed committee are meaning to do. It happens to know, it says, that all which some people have been given to understand in regard to the committee and their af-

fairs "is not only unauthorized but misleading. - Methodist preachers are proverbially poor men, but Baltimore has one, the Rev. J. F. Goucher, who is not of that class. He offers \$7,000 to buy lots for the Theological School in Foochow, China, provided the General Missionary Committee will approve the measure and appoint a married man to take charge of

- Mr. Jefferson, the actor, has incurred the displeasure of the Ladies' Sabbath Association of St. Louis by acting there Sunday. He explained that he was averse to playing on Sunday, and only agreed to do so in St. Louis because the management suggested that it was an error. The word is from the original Weich, the custom of the place, and that there were no conscientious scruples concerning it.

- Rev. Arthur Hall, an English clergyman, being annoyed by snoring during his preaching the other day, stopped in his serm and am flattered at being able to contribute to anybody's repose. But, while proud at being able to give the beloved sleep, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I draw the line at snores. There is somebody snoring in the congregation, and I shall be obliged if somebody will waken him.

- The following somewhat apocryphal story is just now going the rounds:-Philip Phillips, the "singing pilgrim," wrote Myron W. Whitney, asking if he would aid in some service of pecuniary consideration should be expected. signed himself "Philip Phillips, singing for Jesus." The hint was taken, and in reply Mr. Whitney wrote his terms, and, asking if the Lord was not fully as able to pay his price as was a poor human, signed himself "Myron W. Whitney, singing for stamps."

- "What, after all, is the difference," it is often asked, "between a Presbyterian and Congregational church?" As to the internal management, not much. A Presbyterian session and a Congregational standing committee may amount to about the same thing. Only the committee must be cautious about moving without consulting the whole brotherhood. "I am willing my wife should drive," said John Newton, "if she will give me the reins when I want them." If the committee undertakes to lord it too freely, there is friction .- Chicago Advance.

-"Do you believe in predestination?" inquired a Mississippi steamboat captain of a clergyman who happened to be traveling with him. "Of course I do," was the reply. "Then you believe that whatever is to be will be?" "Certainly." "Well, I'm glad of it." "Why?" "Because I'm going to pass that boat ahead in just fifteen consecutive minutes, if there is any virtue in pine knots and safety valves. So don't be alarmed; if the boilers are not going to burst they won't, that's all." Upon this the divine began to put on his hat and looked as if he was going to back out, which the captain observing remarked, "I thought that you believed in predestination." "So I do, but I prefer being a little nearer the stern when it takes

- Now that punched and otherwise mutilated coins are refused by almost all shopkeepers and business people, and even by the street car conductors, it is asked. Who takes them and what becomes of them? This seems a puzzle until inquiry is made of the gentlemen who handle the church collections. They report that a great deal of punched silver is received, and that much of it is in quarter dollars and halves. So much of this business is done in coins, which people could not otherwise get rid of that in some quarters the churches are reaping a perceptible and solid advantage from it. This being the case, they have no disposition to denounce the practice severely. When they have a large quantity of this variety of coin on hand they sell it at a slight discount.

- The 9th Massachusetts regiment arrived at Boston on Sunday evening, and was met by the 1st regiment, which acted as an escort of honor. 'A great deal of delay and display took place." says the Congregationalist, "after which, surrounded by surging and shouting crowds, they marched to Faneuil Hall, where the city gave them a collation, and after the due amount of drinking, singing and miscellaneous confusion all dispersed to their homes. We regard the whole transaction as a disgrace to the city and an insult to its Christian citizens of all creeds It is no secret that the regiment about whom all Once initiated into my new life of freedom. this fuss was made brought no credit to Massaand assured by Mr. Johnson that I need not fear | chusetts during their excursion, and such wholesale desecration of the Lord's day on their re-

turn deserves the severest condemnation." - A business man recently asked The Boston Journal why gospel cars should not be attached to passenger trains as well as smoking cars. Conductor Harris, of the Old Colony Railroad. answers through the same paper that the sug-gestion is a practical one. He writes: "There twelve hours per week on the railroad between home and business. Now why not utilize this time to the glory of God! What a fitting it would be for the business of the day. Instead of card tables have an organ or piano, have the seats arranged facing the center of the car. Instead of spittoons have a carpet; instead of cards have Bibles and Gospel song books. I venture twenty years' railroad experience that the thing is practicable."

-The Sunday School Times aptly takes off the auctioneer-like-way in which some leaders of music play the singing-master in the hours and exercises of worship: "If the Sunday school is a singing school, then the manner of singing ought to receive a large share of attention while the singing is in progress. But if the Sunday school hour is a sacred hour the singing is a part of its exercises of worship the teaching of music ought to be arranged for at another time than then and the singing of a hymn ought not to be interrupted for the purpose of giving singing lessons. If it is right to run the two things together—worship and method-teaching—in the service of praise, why not in teaching—in the service of praise, why not in the service of prayer? Imagine a school trying that in the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven"—"Hold on there," says the superintendent. "Try that over again; all together. Now then"—"Our Father." "Stop! Not "Our Father," but "Our Father." Now, once more." "Our Father who art in heaven." "Notice there, in heaven." It's not your earthly father, but your Father in heaven that you are address. but your Father in heaven that you are addring now. Go on." "Hallowed be Thy nat "Steady there! Steady! That word halle is to be spoken softly, reverently. Don't blurt it out as if you were driving oxen." A good way of promoting reverence that would be wouldn't it? Did you ever hear anything of that sort in the service of praise?"

"Mrs. Sage, I should like to know whose farry boats these are I tumbled over in the mall" "Ferry boats, indeed, sir? Those are my shoes. Very polite of you to call them farry boats." I didn't east ferry boats, Mrs. Sage, you misunderstood me—fairy boots, I said, my form friend."